

June 9, 2010

Via Facsimile (202) 514-2836

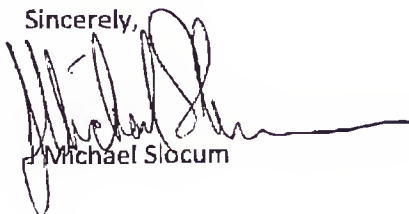
Registration Unit
Counterespionage Section
National Security Division
U.S. Department of Justice
1st Floor – Public Office
1400 New York Avenue, NW- Suite 100
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Kurdistan Regional Government
Liaison Office – USA
Registration NO. 5783

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed are press releases dated May 13, May 19 and June 8, 2010, for the above-entitled entity.

Sincerely,



Michael Slocum

JMS:ll
Enclosure

2010 JUN 10 AM 9:49

Gmail - KRG-USA Newsletter -May 2010



Slocum FARA account <farakrg@gmail.com>

KRG-USA Newsletter -May 2010

1 message

Qubad Talabani <qubad.talabani@krg.org>

Reply-To: qubad.talabani@krg.org

To: farakrg@gmail.com

Thu, May 13, 2010 at 11:14 AM

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KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. LIAISON OFFICE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2010

QUBAD'S REPORT

Representative Qubad Talabani met with U.S. Rep. Howard Berman, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and over 20 other members of Congress to discuss the post-election situation in Iraq and the future of U.S.-Iraqi/KRG relations.

The series of meetings are part of the KRG's continuing extensive outreach to the U.S. Congress, including Senate Foreign Affairs Committee staff and staffers on the Kurdish-American Congressional Caucus. Representative Talabani urged U.S. lawmakers that opening a Consulate in the Kurdistan Region serves the U.S.'s long-term political and economic interests in Iraq while providing much needed consular affairs for Americans in Kurdistan.

Representative Talabani also shared the Kurdistan Region's perspective with officials from the National Security Council, Office of the Vice-President, State Department, and Defense Department on issues ranging from the outcome of the national election to political developments within Iraqi Kurdistan.

FILMING UNDERWAY

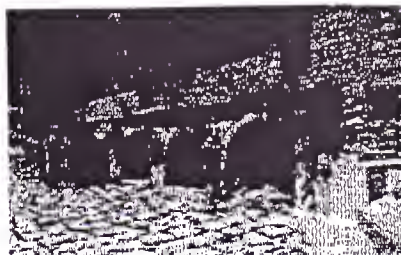
Filming of *The Kurdistan Seed* project is underway this month in Kurdistan. The project celebrates Kurdistan's rich agricultural history from ancient times to today. One goal is for the project to raise awareness and gather international support for the Region's farmers.

The film will focus on the Region's efforts to become self sufficient in food production, highlighting crops native to the Kurdistan Region, such as wheat, lentils, barley and onions. It will also recap the Region's history of farming and how it was once the breadbasket for much of the Middle East.

Filming is to include daily life on three different Kurdish farms, a few days in the life of a young Kurdish farmer just beginning his craft, organic fruit farmers and their orchards, and film students at the agricultural college.

CLOSE UP

The Yezidi (or Êzidi) is one of the Near East's most ancient and mysterious people. Most Yezidis live in Iraqi Kurdistan, with smaller pockets in the Kurdish parts of Syria, Southeast Turkey, Russia and Armenia. The holiest site for Yezidis is Lalish Temple. A central Figure in Yezidism is Malak Tawusi (Peacock Angel) who was created by God before the creation of the world and who embodies both light and darkness. The High Holy Day for all Yezidis around the world is known as Red Wednesday (Charshembe Sur), and this day falls on a Wednesday in early April.



CULTURE

Human fossils from Shanidar cave in Kurdistan are a centerpiece attraction at the new Human Origins exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Those visiting also can enjoy a booth where you can see what

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you would look like 2 million
years ago.

The exhibit builds on the 1971
book "Beyond Bones" by Owen
Edwards, which details the early
excavation of Shanidar Cave
complex. Shanidar has never
been fully excavated.

LAPARAY DUAM/PAGE TWO

COMMUNITY

International Week at George Mason University is one of the most famous weeks on one of the most diverse campuses in the nation. This year, after some effort, the flag of Iraqi Kurdistan was hung beside the flags of other countries and nations in the Johnson Center. It was a proud and emotional moment for many Kurds. An unprecedented number of Kurds participated in the Parade of Nations and carried more Kurdish flags than any other group.

The Kurdistan Student Organization placed fourth in the overall dance competition, prompting many students and faculty with questions about Kurds and Kurdistan—and Kurdish clothes. KSO members used the Culture on the Lawn event to make fresh kabobs and grilled vegetables, perform Kurdish dances and entice audience members to participate. The Showcase of Cultures was another venue for Kurdish food, snacks, books, display boards and maps. KSO members closed by attending "Rep Your Roots" and showcasing the documentary entitled, "Who am I? I am a Kurd", reading poetry and from "Hell is Over: Voices of the Kurds After Saddam" and performing dances.



KRG staffer Sabat Mahmoud helped organize the Kurdish student participation in the GMU International Day.

DIPLOMATIC OUTREACH

Representative Qubad Talabani met separately with Ambassadors Dr. Christian Prosl of Austria, Petr Kolar of the Czech Republic, Pierre Vimont of France, and Jonas Hafstrom of Sweden, as well as diplomats from Japan, Norway and Germany, to provide details on the outcome of Iraq's national election, discuss Iraq's outstanding issues, and to encourage cultural and economic partnerships. The diplomats were impressed by the increasing number of construction and development projects in Erbil and throughout the Kurdistan Region. Talabani thanked each embassy for their involvement and interest, especially in promoting economic investment.

CATCHING UP

Kurdish communities across the United States have urged their respective members of Congress to support a House Resolution (H. Res. 873) calling on the State Department to open a consulate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Recently the community in Washington State met with Rep. Jim McDermott; members of the American Kurdish Council (AKC) in Virginia met with Rep. Jim Moran; and Kurdish Americans in Binghamton, New York, and St. Louis, Missouri, met with their respective Congressmen's staffers. These discussions follow previous meetings held by Kurdish communities in Arizona with Rep. John Shadegg and in Tennessee with Kurdish American Caucus Chair Rep. Lincoln Davis. There are currently 28 members of Congress who have signed on to H. Res. 873.

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Congress Urges Establishing a U.S. Consulate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

1 message

Qubad Talabani <qubad.talabani@krg.org>

Wed, May 19, 2010 at 11:21 PM

Reply-To: qubad.talabani@krg.org

To: farakrg@gmail.com

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)**PRESS RELEASE**

May/19/2010

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Tom Squitieri@krg.org or +1-202-797-7575

www.knowkurdistan.com

U.S. House of Representatives Approves Resolution 873 Calling for the Establishment of a Consulate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

WASHINGTON, DC - May 19, 2010 - Today, the U.S. House of Representatives approved Resolution 873, calling for the establishment of a U.S. consulate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The Resolution signifies the United States' continued support for the stability, prosperity, human rights and democracy of the Kurdistan Region, even as U.S. troops redeploy in accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement.

"I would like to thank the co-authors of the resolution and members of the Kurdish-American Congressional Caucus who supported this resolution," said Qubad Talabani, Representative to the United States of the Kurdistan Regional Government. "The establishment of a consulate in the Kurdistan Region will broaden and deepen and already strong relationship with America."

The House Resolution states that the "establishment of a United States Consulate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq will reaffirm United States support for the stability, prosperity, and democracy that the Kurdistan Region of Iraq has achieved."

Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), the resolution's sponsor, called H.Res.873 a "moral and practical resolution." He went on to say, "a strong relationship with the Kurdish people serves the ideals of peace, stability and democratic governance" and that the "Kurdish part of the country has served as a model for democracy" since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Rohrabacher concluded that the establishment of a consulate in Erbil would "underscore the great friendship between the US and the Kurdish people."

Currently, consular and citizen services are only provided by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, more than 200 miles away from the safe and secure Kurdistan Region. U.S. citizens and visitors to the Region must travel this distance to receive such services. Establishing a consulate in Erbil, the Kurdistan Region's capital, will increase travel to the Region and encourage more business

investment and government and NGO missions to the area.

Seventeen countries, including European nations, have diplomatic representation in Erbil, and this year the U.S. Department of State altered its "Travel Advisory" for Iraq to recognize the safety and security of the Kurdistan Region.

About the Kurdistan Region

The Kurdistan Region is a constitutionally recognized region in federal Iraq. With a population of over 4 million and rapidly increasing, the three governorates of Duhok, Erbil and Suleimania cover approximately 40,000 square miles. The Kurdistan Region is considered to be the safest, most stable Region in Iraq, and it is host to an ever expanding number of commercial and trade initiatives. For more information visit www.knowkurdistan.org

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KRG-USA Newsletter - June 2010

1 message

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Tue, Jun 8, 2010 at 10:26 AM

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KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. LIAISON OFFICE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

HOUSE BACKS CONSULATE IN ERBIL

On May 19 the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling for the establishment of a U.S. consulate in the Kurdistan Region. Approval of this resolution - a key goal of the KRG-U.S. liaison office signals America's continued support for the stability, prosperity and democracy of the Kurdistan Region. Four Congressmen spoke in favor of Resolution 873, which was passed with no opposition. The resolution's sponsor Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) said, "A strong relationship with the Kurdish people serves the ideals of peace, stability and democratic governance... the Kurdish part of the country has served as a model for democracy" since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He said the establishment of a consulate in Erbil would "underscore the great friendship between the U.S. and the Kurdish people." He called it a moral and practical resolution.

The resolution states, "The Kurds of Iraq have been willing partners with the U.S. in the democratic transition in Iraq since 2003 and the Kurdistan Region has served as a model of Iraq's democratization since Operation Iraqi Freedom. The establishment of a U.S. consulate in the Kurdistan Region will demonstrate a U.S. commitment to maintaining and building upon the success and stability of this prosperous and democratic Iraqi region." It notes that a consulate "will both be helpful in attracting greater U.S. business and investment to the region and ensuring that the region continues to serve as a 'gateway' to U.S. business success in other parts of Iraq, as a number of U.S. government agencies have advocated."

Qubad Talabani, the Kurdistan Regional Government's Representative to the U.S., said, "I would like to thank the co-authors of the resolution and members of the Kurdish-American Congressional Caucus who supported it." Talabani also paid tribute to the Kurdish-American community for their efforts in meeting with their respective House members and urging them to support the resolution.

1532 16th Street Northwest

CLOSE UP

Tucked away in a side alley known as Aloy Kon, in the Kani Askan neighborhood of Sulaimani is Ahay Gula. A little gem of a restaurant, Ahay Gula is famous for its mouth watering grilled skewers of liver, kidney, hearts and other parts of lamb most others overlook and discard. There is only one way to enjoy these delectable morsels: get up very early in the morning - because by 9:30 a.m. the restaurant is usually closed as its delicacies are sold out. With laborers, local residents, and others "in the know" Ahay Gula is a true Sulaimani experience that every visitor must try.



CULTURE

The inaugural Kurdish Culture and History Festival will be held June 29 and 30 at the House of Sweden, 2900 K Street, N.W. in the Georgetown area of Washington, D.C. The two days will feature a variety of lectures and panel discussions on culture,

Washington, DC 20036

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journalism and current affairs as well as irresistible music, food, dance. Contact Najat Abdullah at ac@krgusa.org.

LAPARAY DUAM/PAGE TWO

DELEGATION VISITS CONTINUE TO KURDISTAN REGION

A delegation from the Foreign Policy Initiative (FPI) spent a week in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, meeting with President Masoud Barzani, high level KRG officials, a number of senior regional and local officials as well as university students, businesspeople, and journalists. Julius D. Krein of FPI said the group received a very warm welcome from everyone they met. "The visit impressed upon the group members the vital importance of continued American engagement in order to ensure the progress achieved so far and to help build a better future for the people of the region." Members of the delegation wrote several articles about their trip, which can be found at www.knowkurdistan.com.

The visit of FPI - coordinated by Zhala Sabir, director for Congressional and Academic Affairs in the KRG-U.S. liaison office - follows trips to the Kurdistan Region by other foreign policy institutes, such as the Center for New American Security (CNAS) and the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).



Qubad Talabani speaks to Washington's foreign policy community at the Nixon Center.

IRAQ ELECTION RESULTS REVIEWED

Appearing before the Nixon Center, Qubad Talabani, the KRG's U.S. representative, urged the Washington foreign policy community to stay engaged in Iraqi issues, despite the new focus on the imminent U.S. troop drawdown and the shift to the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. He called on the U.S. administration to exert pressure on Iraq to achieve formation of a new government. "Any further delay could destabilize the region," Talabani said. "There is a long process ahead, and it is unlikely that a perfect Iraq will emerge. But if Iraq can become a relatively democratic, relatively stable, relatively pro-Western country, it could both play a stabilizing role in the region and act as an important and reliable exporter of hydro-carbons."

CONGRESS

Kurdistan Region President Masoud Barzani received U.S. Reps. Lincoln Davis, Chairman of the Kurdish American Congressional Caucus, and Brian Baird to discuss bilateral relations between the U.S. and the Kurdistan Region. The Congressmen travelled to the Kurdistan Region in recognition and appreciation for the friendship of the people of the Kurdistan Region toward the U.S. government and people.

CATCHING UP

We welcome Glen Ramson as our newest intern. Glen is from Frederick, Md., and has a BA in Economics from the University of Maryland. Glen is a Masters candidate in Middle Eastern studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs, at George Washington University. We say thanks to outgoing interns Bill Rice and Sabat Mamoud. Bill returns to American University to pursue studies in International Peace and Conflict Resolution while Sabat continues work on her Masters degree in Global Affairs at George Mason University.

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